

Exeter Friends Meeting House
1 mile east of Stonersville, 1/2 mile
south of State Route 562 (Boyertown Road)
Stonersville Vicinity, Exeter Township
Berks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1021

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

PA
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EXETER FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

HABS No. PA-1021

Location: 1 mile east of Stonersville, 1/2 mile south of State Route 562 (Boyertown Road), Stonersville Vicinity, Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania

Present Owner: Exeter Friends Meeting

Present Use: Friends Meeting House

Brief Statement of Significance: The Exeter Friends Meeting House is a good example of the small stone meeting house built by the Quakers in Pennsylvania in the eighteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Exeter Friends Meeting House was built in 1758 by Quaker settlers in the area around Monocacy Creek. This was their third meeting house. The first, a log structure, was erected in 1726 and replaced by the second meeting house in 1737.

Among the early members of this meeting were the Boone and the Lincoln families, some of whom are buried in the graveyard of the meeting house.

References: P. C. Croll, Annals of the Oley Valley (Reading, Pennsylvania: Reading Eagle Press, 1926), pages 28-32.

John E. Eshelman, "Society of Friends and their Meeting Houses in Berks County," The Historical Review of Berks County, vol. I (1936), pages 34-40.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Exeter Friends Meeting House is a small, one-story, stone structure, rectangular in form with a gable roof. The building remains as it was originally built, except for a porch at the east end, added in the nineteenth century. The building is in excellent condition and is carefully maintained by the congregation.

The building measures approximately thirty feet by forty-one, including a porch at the east end. The north side of the porch has been enclosed to form a storage closet. The foundations and walls are of stone.

There are four doors, two on the south, one on the east, and one on the north sides. The principal door, on the east side of the

south facade, is a wide double door, with three panels in each leaf, protected by a small unsupported gabled stoop or pent.

The large double-hung sash windows open on the north, south, and west sides. These have solid shutters. The gable roof is shingled. There is a boxed cornice with a crown mold.

The interior is one large room, which can be divided by vertical sliding wood panels into two rooms. The floors are wood, the walls and ceiling plastered. The woodwork of the paneling and benches is very simple but very finely joined and detailed. Modern lighting and heating equipment has been installed.

The meeting house stands in a grove of trees in a rise above the road. The enclosed graveyard is just to the south of the meeting house.

Prepared by Drury B. Alexander
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August 15, 1958